

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

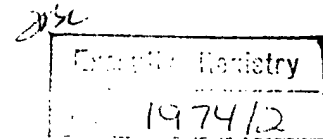
FYI *Mr Casey*

FROM: TONY DOLAN



*L-299A*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



May 7, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD DARMAN  
BEN ELLIOTT  
DON FORTIERS  
ROBERT McFARLANE  
CONSTANTINE MENGES

FROM: ANTHONY R. DOLAN  
SUBJECT: Central America Speech

The speech is fine and will do the trick.

I would suggest the following brief additions to the speech that directly exploit opinions already strongly held by the American people.

1. EXPLOIT GRENADA -- Rarely have the President's critics made themselves look so questionable in public eyes than in the Grenada expedition. The following paragraph should be inserted on page 16, following the words that "if you feed the alligator, maybe he'll eat you last":

"You will remember that some of these same people now saying that the situation is not all that dire in Central America or that our claims of Communist influence are exaggerated or that any action we take may violate international law made all these same protests following my decision to rescue our medical students in Grenada and help restore democratic government there. They were wrong then about Grenada. Believe me, they are wrong now about Central America."

2. INTERNATIONAL LAW (Churchill), CONGRESSIONAL IMMUNITY, AND CONTRAS ISSUES -- To make the point about dictators not enjoying Congressional immunity, Churchill's point about the abuse of international law and the President's support of the Contras. (I think we have to at least mention the Contra point.) At the bottom of page 16, following the paragraph ending "Congress . . . will be held accountable by the American people and by history.":

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"Those who seek to bring totalitarian rule to Central America are not entitled to any form of Congressional immunity. And as Winston Churchill once noted in another context, dictators are not entitled to shred the fabric of international law and then attempt to hide behind the few scraps they leave behind. As long as I am President, I will do whatever I can to help those who are prepared to oppose the aggression of the Sandinistas. The United States has been supporting -- and proudly supporting -- not only the elected government of El Salvador, but also those many thousands of Nicaraguans who are resisting Communist tyranny in their homeland. If the Communists can make open war against the economy of democratic El Salvador, then the opponents of Nicaragua would be fully entitled to block the flow of arms or take other measures to deny Nicaragua the means to make war on its neighbors."

3. CASTRO AND DRUGS -- I strongly endorse the idea of a short few sentences on the drug problem. Nothing would hit home faster or harder with parents.

4. VISION OF VICTORY -- We should also offer a vision of victory. I would suggest a final line in the speech saying, "Believe me, the people of Central America can and will win this battle, but they need our help."

5. TRANSITION -- This is less important, but the transition from China to Central America on page 1 is far too abrupt. ("But that isn't what I wanted to talk to you about.") Suggest after paragraph ending "never been better":

"I think this is just one more indication that great new possibilities for peace are being made possible by the recovery of our national strength and our international stature. Our economy is booming, our military strength is rebuilt, our allies are supportive on a wide range of issues, Third World nations are more disposed toward our democratic way of life -- in short, the basic elements of our foreign policy are working, and working well.

But I have always believed that in foreign as well as domestic policy, the final choices are up to the people. That is why I have asked for this time: to tell you of some basic decisions which you have to make."